

# THE WORKFORCE WORD

## Events in October

### Job Fairs

Oct - 4, 11, 18, 25

Oct 10 - Columbus Day

Oct 30 - Daylight Savings Time

**Mayor Shirley Franklin's Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise"** kicked off full-swing this Fall. Mayor Franklin and the entire AWDA Next Step Staff have already visited 8 of the 10 High Schools participating in the highly touted program. After effectively completing one year and providing all active 2005 graduates with the resources necessary for success, Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise" continues to gain momentum. Mayor Franklin has emphasized the experiences and accomplishments of last year's 2005 graduating pilot class to invoke interest and attract 2006 Atlanta High School Seniors.



## Next Step Staff:

**JoAnn Paschall**  
**Gabrielle Allmon**  
**Carolyn Frisby**  
**Jonelle Myers**  
**Marcus Stanley**  
**Scottie Stewart**  
**Kevin Ware**  
**Angela Williams**



Mayor Franklin discusses Next Step.. "The Atlanta Promise" with 2006 Grady High School Seniors



Kevin Ware fields questions from Southside HS students interested in obtaining summer and fulltime employment.

Through Next Step, Mayor Franklin makes a promise to assist the entire Senior Class of every Atlanta Public high school in exchange for 3 main requirements: "Show Up! Stay off Drugs, and Obey the Law!" The Seniors at each high school view a presentation from the 2005 class discussing personal experiences and the benefits of participating in the 2005 Next Step program. Following this presentation and an interactive conversation with Mayor Franklin, students receive brochures and additional information from the Next Step staff. Mayor Franklin invites all of the students to AWDA's One-Stop Center for a more personal discussion during an upcoming Saturday morning. These early morning meetings are essential and remain a sacrifice for all, further highlighting students who are serious about their futures and their requirement to "Show Up!"

The Atlanta Renewal Community, Inc. (ACoRA) accountable for overseeing Atlanta's Renewal Community Program and distribution of Title XX funds outstanding from the former Atlanta Empowerment Zone awarded Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise" \$100,000 in post-secondary scholarships. These funds will support over 20 students residing in the Atlanta Renewal Community, the Former Empowerment Zone that provides services to over 200,000 of Atlanta's poorest inhabitants of 99 unique regions. "We are delighted to be able to contribute in this way for the benefit of students who are Renewal Community/Formal Empowerment Zone residents," remarked ACoRA Chairman of the Board, George Howell. 2005 Next Step participants Jessica Tipton and Otis Morris accepted the check on behalf of their class. For more information on The Atlanta Renewal Community, Inc. (ACoRA), please visit <http://www.atlantacora.org/>





**Mayor Franklin meets with Douglass & Crim high school students on Saturday October 29, 2005 at AWDA's One-Stop Center.**



**Jasmine Davis, Keisha Murphy, Stephanie Warren discuss financial aid options, specifically FAFSA with Vyrlyn Ellis.**

**Seniors from Atlanta Next Step High Schools have started to "Show Up" at Atlanta Workforce Development Agency on Saturday mornings for Meet the Mayor discussions. Here, students register with the Next Step online database and visit various workshops and information assemblies. These workshops include employment / interview readiness, constructing and editing resumes, SAT preparation, and Financial Management; with guest speakers that offer sound instruction and advice. Following interaction with the workshops, many Seniors meet with Counselors who assess their professional and educational goals. Counselors present various post secondary plans and options for each individual student following high school graduation. Many Seniors take advantage of the College and Career Fairs that feature local Colleges / Universities and Businesses who present facts, statistics, and pertinent information for interested students.**



**Student Vice-President Justin Harlow honors Mayor Franklin's diligence with Next Step and Atlanta Youth on behalf of the 2006 Senior Class of North Atlanta High School.**



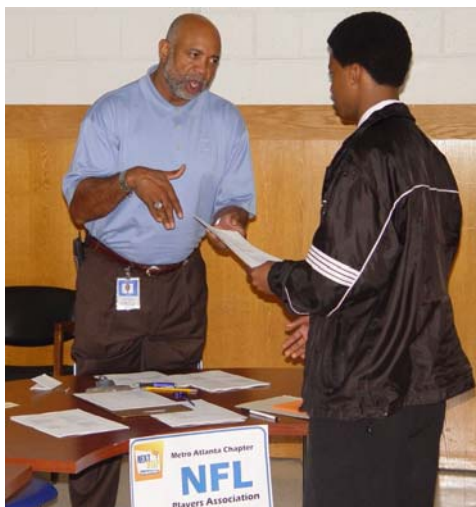
**Therrel High School Seniors Regina Zachary, Anais Arleguin, Donnell Wise, Marlo Crane, James Artis, and Doyal Wise pose waiting for their One on One Session with Mayor Franklin.**



**Jonelle Myers instructs Washington HS staff and students on how to actively engage themselves in the Next Step program.**



**Douglass High School Seniors Jerome Ingram and Kenya Merritt spoke to and posed with City of Atlanta Firemen Inv. Carlos Wiley and Lt. Cecil Level at the Career Fair. Agencies such as the Atlanta Fire Department will be at the Career Fairs to recruit youth who are determined to enter the workforce immediately following high school graduation.**



**AWDA's own former Atlanta Falcon Dewey McClain discusses NFL internships and job possibilities with Isiah Muhammad**



**Tiffany Pryor of the University of Georgia in Athens, fielded questions from inquisitive students ranging from academic major's to Campus life.**

*Helping those who are determined to help themselves...*

Patrina Bagley enrolled in AWDA Job Readiness classes as a participant in the AHA Catalyst program. She demonstrated her commitment to success through her willingness to engage in the services available through the AWDA One-Stop Program. Ms. Bagley was tested, and upon reviewing Ms. Bagley's TABE test (test of adult basic education), I discovered that she scored perfect score in every category...Math, Reading, and Language. The test, equivalent to 10<sup>th</sup> grade academic skill levels makes Ms. Bagley's accomplishments more than astonishing considering that she dropped out of high school in only the ninth grade over a decade ago.

After discussing her scores and potential, I encouraged Ms. Bagley to register for our GED program under the direction of Ms. Marva Richardson with Atlanta Public Schools, another collaborative partner of AWDA. Ms. Richardson pointed out that Ms. Bagley did not need extensive tutoring and recommended she take the exam right away. She scored above average in every component of the GED with an amazing score of 780 in the reading section out of 800 points. Since earning her GED, Ms. Bagley has expressed an interest to enroll in Atlanta Technical College's IT department. She has just received a job offer with the IRS as a tax examiner where she will work part time while pursuing a career as a Computer Analyst. Her anticipated start date for both of these wonderful accomplishments is January 2006.

We are extremely proud of Ms. Bagley and want to congratulate her on her accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Oliver Team Lead / Senior Coordinator



Charlotte Oliver and Marylin Sims accompany Patrina Bagley who holds up her GED and test scores.

## In Memory of...



William H. McClure

The AWDA family would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of one of our own, Mr. William "Bill" McClure. Age 57, Bill died at home Tuesday morning October 25, 2005 after a long battle with illness. He leaves to cherish his memory a wife, Mrs. Margaret Webb McClure; son, William H. McClure, Jr.; daughter, Brittany A. McClure; brother, Barry L. McClure (Gwenda); sisters-in-law, Carolyn Webb and Gwendolyn Wilson (Theron); nieces, Debra and Donna Tucker and Alana Wilson; nephews, Damien Wilson (Tari) and Dwayne Tucker and a multitude of relatives, friends, constituents and colleagues of the City of East Point and the City of Atlanta. Mr. McClure served on the Atlanta-Fulton County Library Board as one of the trustees. Further, as an East Point City Councilman, he recognized the city's potential and aimed at amplifying business development and encouraging smart economic growth. This past March, he organized the city's first summit on smart growth, bringing developers and community activists together. An avid golfer, mentor, and friend to many at AWDA, Bill McClure lived in East Point for more than 25 years, following a stint with the U.S. Army. The public viewing was held at the East Point City Hall's auditorium Thursday, October 27, 2005. The Celebration of Life for Bill McClure was conducted Saturday, October 29, 2005; 1:00 PM at Friendship Baptist Church, 4141 Old Fairburn Road, College Park, GA with Rev. Donald Bryant officiating. Family, Friends, Colleagues, and Constituents were there to show their respects and remember Bill's dedication to his Community, City, and County. He surely will be missed.

Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks was honored as the first woman to lie in the United States Capitol Rotunda, a privilege only bestowed to US Presidents. Parks died Monday October 24, 2005 at age 92 of natural causes in her home in Detroit, Michigan. When a white man demanded that Parks give up her seat on Montgomery, Alabama bus, the 42 year-old seamstress emphatically said, "NO!" This statement initiated the famous Bus Boycotts and ignited a Civil Rights revolution. Refusing to acknowledge the Jim Crow laws that perpetuated racism and discrimination in the South, Parks was arrested and fined \$14. The ensuing 381 day Bus Boycotts organized by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led to countless other stages, protests, and sit-ins, resulting in the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act. For her role in Civil Rights struggle, Parks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, and NAACP Image Award in 1999. Her life and her struggle helped to bring about change in a nation. Because of the Civil Rights Movement, racial barriers in areas like employment and government assistance were broken. At a celebration for her achievements in 1988 Parks remarked, "I am leaving this legacy to all of you... to bring peace, justice, equality, love and a fulfillment of what our lives should be. Without vision, the people will perish, and without courage and inspiration, dreams will die- the dream of freedom and peace." Because of the symbolic and social significance of her defiance against racial injustice, Parks will forever be remembered as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."



Rosa Parks